

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A process for the production of alkyl salicylic acids comprising reacting salicylic acid with an olefin having at least four carbon atoms at elevated temperature in the presence of a perfluoroalkylsulfonic acid, an alkylsulfonic acid, or an acidic clay as a catalyst.
2. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the catalyst is anhydrous methanesulfonic acid.
3. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the olefin is selected from the group consisting of isobutylene, propylene trimer, propylene tetramer, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene, 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.
4. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein the olefin is selected from the group consisting of isobutylene, propylene trimer, propylene tetramer, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene, 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.
5. (Canceled)

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6. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 5 13 wherein said elevated temperature is in the range of from about 120° to about 160° C.
7. (Original) A composition comprising an alkyl salicylic acid prepared by a process comprising reacting salicylic acid with an olefin having at least four carbon atoms at elevated temperature in the presence of a perfluoroalkylsulfonic acid, an alkylsulfonic acid, or an acidic clay as a catalyst.
8. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 7 wherein the catalyst ~~in~~ is anhydrous methanesulfonic acid.
9. (Original) The composition of claim 7 wherein the olefin is selected from the group consisting of isobutylene, propylene trimer, propylene tetramer, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene, 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.
10. (Original) The composition of claim 8 wherein the olefin is selected from the group consisting of isobutylene, propylene trimer, propylene tetramer, 1-hexene, 1-octene, 1-decene, 1-dodecene, 1-tetradecene, 1-hexadecene, 1-octadecene, 1-eicosene, 1-docosene, 1-tetracosene, and mixtures of the foregoing.

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11. (Original) The composition of claim 7 wherein said elevated temperature is at least about 50° C.

12. (Original) The composition of claim 11 wherein said elevated temperature is in the range of from about 120° to about 160° C.

13. (New) A process for the production of alkyl salicylic acids comprising reacting salicylic acid with an olefin having at least four carbon atoms at an elevated temperature of at least about 50° C in the presence of a perfluoroalkylsulfonic acid, an alkylsulfonic acid, or an acidic clay as a catalyst.